



October 10, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Medical Association and AARP, we strongly urge you to vote to override the President's veto of the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act.

The veto of this legislation puts millions of children at risk of losing health insurance coverage. The legislation sent to the President would strengthen the successful CHIP program and ensure that nearly 10 million children get the health care they need. We should ensure that as many children as possible have access to proper health care. Our nation has a duty to give all children the best possible start in life.

CHIP is a public-private partnership in which 77% of kids get coverage through private insurers. It has the overwhelming support of the nation's governors, as well as America's Health Insurance Plans, which represents private insurers. In fact, the carefully crafted bipartisan compromise bill can even strengthen private sector insurance because it allows states to use CHIP funds to help families purchase qualified employer-based coverage.

And, contrary to much misinformation, the bill focuses the program on serving low-income kids who are U.S. citizens. The legislation does not increase income eligibility limits, nor does it provide for coverage of illegal immigrants.

This is not a debate about government versus private insurance – both will be part of any real solution to our nation's growing health care crisis. It is about ensuring that we do right by our children so that they can grow into healthy, productive adults.

When 47 million Americans are already uninsured, this is not the time to jeopardize the coverage of our children. We therefore urge you to vote to override the veto and enact this vital health care legislation.

Sincerely,

William D. Novelli  
Chief Executive Officer  
AARP

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President, CEO  
American Medical Association